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Held at Headquarters, New York, on New York, on Thursday, 5 July 2018, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Tommo Monthe ..... (Cameroon)
Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Ruiz Massieu

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

1. **The Chair** informed the Committee that some of the draft resolutions and decisions to be introduced had only recently been adopted informally, and were thus provisional and available in English only. With full regard for the resolutions of the General Assembly on multilingualism, he acknowledged the Committee's flexibility in proceeding with its consideration of the draft proposals on that basis so as to conclude its work at the second part of the resumed session.

Agenda item 133: Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (*continued*) (A/C.5/72/L.32)

Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.32: Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

2. *Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.32 was adopted.*

Agenda item 136: Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 (*continued*)

Special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 (*continued*) (A/C.5/72/L.52)

Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.52: Special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

3. *Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.52 was adopted.*

Agenda item 148: Financing of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (*continued*) (A/C.5/72/L.34)

Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.34: Financing of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals

4. *Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.34 was adopted.*

Agenda item 149: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Rates of reimbursement to troop- and police-contributing countries (*continued*) (A/C.5/72/L.33)

Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.33: Rates of reimbursement to troop- and police-contributing countries

5. *Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.33 was adopted.*

Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda (*continued*) (A/C.5/72/L.48)

Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.48: Financing of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda

6. *Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.48 was adopted.*

United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy (*continued*) (A/C.5/72/L.49)

Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.49: Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy

7. *Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.49 was adopted.*

Support account for peacekeeping operations (*continued*) (A/C.5/72/L.55)

Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.55: Support account for peacekeeping operations

8. *Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.55 was adopted.*

Agenda item 150: Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (*continued*) (A/C.5/72/L.47)

Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.47: Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei

9. *Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.47 was adopted.*

Agenda item 151: Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (*continued*) (A/C.5/72/L.54)

Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.54: Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

10. *Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.54 was adopted.*

Agenda item 152: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (*continued*) (A/C.5/72/L.51)

Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.51: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

11. *Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.51 was adopted.*

Agenda item 153: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (*continued*) (A/C.5/72/L.38)

Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.38: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

12. *Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.38 was adopted.*

Agenda item 154: Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (*continued*) (A/C.5/72/L.41)

Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.41: Financing of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

13. *Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.41 was adopted.*

Agenda item 156: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (*continued*) (A/C.5/72/L.36)

Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.36: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

14. *Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.36 was adopted.*

Agenda item 157: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (*continued*) (A/C.5/72/L.42)

Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.42: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

15. *Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.42 was adopted.*

Agenda item 158: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (*continued*) (A/C.5/72/L.50)

Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.50: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

16. *Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.50 was adopted.*

Agenda item 159: Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (*continued*) (A/C.5/72/L.40)

Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.40: Financing of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

17. *Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.40 was adopted.*

Agenda item 160: Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East (*continued*)

(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (*continued*) (A/C.5/72/L.39)

Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.39: Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

18. **Mr. Awad** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the deployment of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) had been necessitated by Israel's occupation of the Syrian Golan and its refusal to abide by Security Council and General Assembly resolutions calling for a full withdrawal to the line of 4 June 1967. Accordingly, the presence of UNDOF was temporary, and intended to last until the end of the occupation and the implementation of those resolutions. His delegation had stressed repeatedly that, in line with the principles established by the General Assembly in its resolution 1874 (S-IV), the financing of UNDOF should be the responsibility of Israel, as the occupying Power.

19. His delegation rejected attempts to undermine the mandate of UNDOF as a military rather than a political mission, and attempts to disregard the legitimate and principled position of the Syrian Arab Republic as the host of the Force. That position derived not from the opinions of the country, but from the foundations of all peacekeeping missions since the inception of the concept at the United Nations. The functions attached to the two civilian staff positions proposed for 2018/19 were already being performed by military officers from the UNDOF contingents. Moreover, converting posts in the Security Section from temporary to permanent status was not justifiable, as the security situation was itself temporary; such action was also out of step with the situation on the ground, where personnel were returning to positions previously abandoned. Once again, his delegation wished to emphasize its rejection of the attempts by the delegations of the United States of America and the European Union to disregard in informal consultations the wording proposed by the Syrian Arab Republic, and therefore of those delegations' attempts to politicize the UNDOF mandate. In the absence of a consensus, his delegation found itself obliged to propose an oral amendment to the draft resolution, reflecting the wording proposed in the informal consultations, and reading as follows:

> "Takes note of paragraph 27 of the report of the Advisory Committee and decides to abolish two international temporary positions in the Office of the Force Commander, Head of Mission, for one Special Adviser (P-5) and one Mission Liaison Officer (P-4), and further decides not to approve the five general temporary assistance positions to be converted to international posts to strengthen the Security Section".

His delegation urged the Committee to adopt the proposed amendment, preserving consensus and avoiding recourse to a vote. However, if the delegations that he had previously named held fast to their deplorable, unprecedented and unjustified rejection of that wording, he urged the Committee to vote in favour of the amendment, thus supporting the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly respect for national sovereignty and non-

interference in the internal affairs of States, and upholding the principles of peacekeeping over the interests of a particular country.

20. **Mr. Khalizov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation wished to express its deep disappointment at the way in which informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.39 had been conducted, and in particular the failure to consider wording proposed by the delegation representing the country hosting UNDOF. Recourse to a vote would create an undesirable precedent for the work of the Committee.

21. **Mr. Tavoli** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that he wished to echo the previous speaker's views and to urge adoption of the amendment to the draft resolution proposed by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

22. **Ms. Norman-Chalet** (United States of America) said that her delegation was not in agreement with the proposed amendment to the draft resolution, and wished to call for a recorded vote on its inclusion.

23. *At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on the oral amendment to draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.39 proposed by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.*

In favour:

Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, China, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Liberia, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

24. *The oral amendment was rejected by 13 votes to 54, with 55 abstentions.*

25. **Mr. Pretterhofer** (Austria), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the member States of the European Union were concerned that the Committee had, for the first time, found itself unable to reach consensus on the draft resolution on the financing of UNDOF. They had voted against the oral amendment proposed by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, which would have deprived UNDOF of posts essential to the full implementation of its mandate. The two posts whose elimination had been proposed had attached to them key functions which should continue to be discharged, and which had originally been assigned with the agreement of the Committee. It was a matter of regret that those posts had been left vacant since 2015 as a result of refusal of the necessary visas for their occupants. The European Union urged the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to allow the posts to be filled, as had been the original intention of the Committee, therefore enabling UNDOF to function properly. In addition, the vote against the proposed amendment had been motivated by that amendment's opposition to the conversion of five general temporary assistance positions to international posts, a step important to the regularization of the Force and to ensuring the safety of all of its civilian personnel, safe movement of personnel into and out of the field of operations, and liaison with the host Government.

26. **Mr. Awad** (Syrian Arab Republic), thanking the delegations which had voted in favour of the proposed amendment to the draft resolution, said that that vote in favour was not a vote in support of the position of one country, but a vote in support of the principles underlying peacekeeping operations, namely consideration of the concerns of the host State. With regard to the views expressed by the representative of Austria, speaking on behalf of the European Union, he wished to emphasize that the Syrian Arab Republic did not oppose the filling of the positions in question, but did believe that they should not be filled by civilian personnel. The functions attached to the positions were

being fulfilled by military personnel, and UNDOF was functioning properly.

27. *Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.39 was adopted.*

28. **Mr. Awad** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution on the financing of UNDOF, and also intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), based on the principle that the responsibility for funding both missions must be borne by Israel, as the occupying Power. His delegation's position was in line with the basic principles established by the General Assembly in its resolution 1874 (S-IV).

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon *(continued)* (A/C.5/72/L.31)

Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.31: Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

29. **The Chair** recalled that draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.31 had been introduced at the 43rd meeting of the Committee, held on 31 May 2018 (see A/C.5/72/SR.43).

30. **Mr. Ahmed** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introducing an oral amendment to the draft resolution, said that the phrase "subject to the provisions of the present resolution" should be inserted in paragraph 10, which would thus read as follows:

> "*Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation".

In addition, a new paragraph 10bis, reading as indicated below, should be inserted after the existing paragraph 10, with renumbering of the subsequent paragraphs:

> "*Decides* to allocate an amount of $6,709,300 for air operations from the overall resources for the Force."

31. **Ms. Van Buerle** (Secretary of the Committee) said that, in the existing paragraph 15, the spaces left blank for the insertion of amounts should be filled with the following figures, in order: "$505,053,500"; "$474,460,700"; "$24,486,500"; and "$6,160,300". The existing paragraphs 16 to 21 of the draft resolution would be updated accordingly, with amounts inserted in the blank spaces.

32. **Ms. Hazanovitz** (Israel) said that, the Committee was once again considering a draft resolution proposed by Group of 77 and China that had politicized and undermined its work, and was once again acquiescing to inane repetition rather than insisting on change. The Member States had spent most of the preceding year working towards reform, particularly in the forum of the Fifth Committee, and particularly at the second part of the resumed session. They had been striving to make the Organization more effective and efficient by replacing outdated practices with new and better practices. That approach unfortunately seemed not to apply to the operation of the Committee, which was tolerating the current debate simply out of habit. It was ironic that, during the Committee's discussion of the proposed management reforms, the Group of 77 and China had referred to making the Organization more responsive but also more responsible and credible, yet was repeating its past practice of singling out Israel, reinforcing unjustified bias and making a mockery of the Organization and the Committee, particularly, at the current session, having failed to engage with the Committee on the wording of the draft resolution. Such a failure to engage with the Committee would surely not have been tolerated in another context, such as discussion of reform of the Organization or reimbursement rates for troop- and police-contributing countries, and it surely would not have been perceived as helping to make the Organization more responsible or credible. Having been faced with terrorism and violence for many years, Israel had a profound understanding of the need for peacekeeping, and remained actively engaged in helping the Organization to protect the brave men and women from troop- and police-contributing countries who performed invaluable work in difficult and dangerous environments. It maintained good relations with the peacekeeping forces in the region, including the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), and continuously demonstrated its support for United Nations peacekeeping operations.

33. The fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 of the draft resolution were an attempt at inserting a political agenda into an otherwise apolitical discussion of peacekeeping operations and their budgets. Her delegation requested a recorded vote on those paragraphs, and urged Member States to vote against them, demonstrating a commitment to change rather than to repetition of past practice.

34. *At the request of the representative of Israel, a recorded vote was taken on the fourth preambular paragraph and existing paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 of draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.31.*

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Canada, Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

35. *The fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 13 of draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.31 were adopted by 85 votes to 3, with 48 abstentions.*

36. **The Chair** said that a recorded vote had been requested on draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.31, as orally amended, as a whole.

37. **Ms. Norman-Chalet** (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that while the United States of America strongly supported UNIFIL and its important mandate, the use of funding resolutions to pursue claims against a Member State was not procedurally correct, hence her delegation's opposition to previous General Assembly resolutions requiring Israel to pay for costs stemming from the Qana incident of 1996. Those resolutions were not consensus resolutions. The procedure followed since shortly after the founding of the United Nations had been for the Secretary-General to pursue settlement of the Organization's claims against States. Using a funding resolution to legislate a settlement was inappropriate, politicized the work of the Committee, and should be avoided on the present occasion and in the future.

38. *At the request of the representative of Israel, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.31, as orally amended, as a whole.*

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Canada, Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

39. *Draft resolution A/C.5/71/L.31, as orally amended, was adopted by 136 votes to 3.*

40. **Mr. Pretterhofer** (Austria), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that it was a matter of concern that no consensus had been reached on the draft resolution, and that political elements had been introduced in the work of the Committee. The States members of the European Union had abstained in the vote on the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 13, as they considered the text inappropriate in the context of the financing of UNIFIL. The broader political aspects of the events referred to, including the incident at Qana, had been debated extensively in the plenary Assembly in April 1996, and reflected in resolution 50/22 C, at which time the States members of the European Union had made clear their position. They would have preferred the Committee's consultations on the matter to have been confined to the budgetary aspects of the financing of UNIFIL. Nevertheless, they had voted in favour of the draft resolution as a whole, as it provided the Force with the resources needed to discharge its important mandate.

41. **Mr. Saleh Azzam** (Lebanon) paid tribute to the sacrifices of United Nations peacekeepers in the service of peace around the world, in particular in the Middle East. He thanked the delegations that had voted in favour of the draft resolution. His delegation's vote in favour reflected its unwavering support for the contribution of UNIFIL to peace and stability in the region for forty years. His delegation had also voted in favour of the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 13, made necessary by the persistent non-compliance of Israel with a total of 25 previous resolutions. He supported the Secretary-General's efforts to secure the payment to UNIFIL of the amount of $1,117,005 as compensation for the shelling and destruction of the Force's headquarters at Qana in April 1996.

Agenda item 161: Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (*continued*) (A/C.5/72/L.44)

Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.44: Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan

42. *Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.44 was adopted.*

Agenda item 162: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (*continued*) (A/C.5/72/L.43)

Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.43: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

43. *Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.43 was adopted.*

Agenda item 163: Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (*continued*) (A/C.5/72/L.45)

Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.45: Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

44. *Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.45 was adopted.*

Agenda item 164: Financing of activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009) (*continued*) (A/C.5/72/L.46)

Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.46: Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009)

45. *Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.46 was adopted.*

Agenda item 165: Financing of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (*continued*) (A/C.5/72/L.37)

Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.37: Financing of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti

46. *Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.37 was adopted.*

Agenda item 149: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations, the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, and the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda (A/C.5/72/24)

Approved resources for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/C.5/72/25)

47. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take note of the information in the Secretary-General's note on the financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations, the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, and the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda (A/C.5/72/24), which, in accordance with the prorating procedures established in General Assembly resolution 50/221 B, indicated the amounts to be apportioned in respect of each peacekeeping mission,

including the prorated share of the support account, the United Nations Logistics Base and the Regional Service Centre. He also invited the Committee to take note of the Secretary-General's note on approved resources for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/C.5/72/25).

Agenda item 134: Review of the efficiency and the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*)

Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations (*continued*) (A/C.5/72/L.53)

Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.53: Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations

48. *Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.53 was adopted.*

Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat (*continued*) (A/C.5/72/L.35)

Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.35: Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat

49. *Draft resolution A/C.5/72/L.35 was adopted.*

Questions deferred for future consideration (A/C.5/72/L.56)

Draft decision A/C.5/72/L.56: Questions deferred for future consideration

50. *Draft decision A/C.5/72/L.56 was adopted.*

Other matters

51. **The Chair** said that he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly that all resolutions relating to the peacekeeping budget and to special political missions adopted at the present meeting should be considered effective on 1 July 2018.

52. *It was so decided.*

Completion of the work of the Fifth Committee at the second part of the resumed seventy-second session of the General Assembly

53. **Mr. Ahmed** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, noted that his Group had expressed concern early in the second part of the resumed seventy-second session about the Committee's heavy agenda and the late introduction of items on that agenda, but had nonetheless exercised flexibility in the interests of making progress. The Group thanked the Chair and the Bureau for their role in helping the Committee to conclude its work successfully, and hoped that the pattern of the session would be the exception rather than the rule.

54. The budgets for peacekeeping, a crucial part of the Organization's work, must provide the resources needed for the fulfilment of mandates. The Group opposed arbitrary, across-the-board, cost-cutting exercises that failed to take account of the situation on the ground. Though consultations had been difficult and consensus had been hard to reach, the Group hoped that the outcome of the session would enable the Secretariat to carry out its work effectively and efficiently.

55. The Group regretted that the Committee had once again been unable to reach agreement on the handling of the accounts of closed peacekeeping missions, and trusted that, when the matter was taken up, options would be presented for a sustainable solution to address claims payable to Member States, particularly troop- and police-contributing countries, from the budgets of those closed missions. Noting the Secretariat's progress over the previous year in making peacekeeping more field-focused and effective, the Group looked forward to continued efforts in that regard, including full utilization of the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe. Paying tribute to those who had made sacrifices in the cause of peace, it welcomed the results of the review of the standard rates of reimbursement to troop- and police-contributing countries, and the increase in death and disability compensation rates, for the first time since 2010.

56. The Group welcomed the adoption of historic resolutions on restructuring the United Nations peace and security architecture and on management reform. In the case of the former, it welcomed the shift to new working methods and towards a more integrated and coordinated Organization, and in particular the establishment of four standalone divisions devoted to Africa, and the adoption of a true "whole-of-pillar" approach to strengthen support and response for peace operations at every point on the peace continuum. In the case of the latter, it expressed pride in achieving a balanced outcome that laid the foundation for a more effective, efficient, accountable and transparent Organization, and brought changes in the structure of the Secretariat and in critical system-wide functions including procurement and information and communications technology. As the Committee prepared for the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, the Group hoped that a spirit of cooperation and flexibility would continue to prevail, with the common goal of building a better United Nations that worked for the interests of all Member States.

57. **Mr. Burity** (Angola), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that his Group, while welcoming the decisions reached at the current meeting, was concerned at the way in which the prior discussions had proceeded, with unnecessary delays in the consideration of many items on the Committee's agenda, in particular the budget for peacekeeping operations, which had been addressed only a few days before the beginning of the new financial year for those operations. In that connection, the agreement on the peacekeeping budget had been reached through painful compromise. The Group was concerned at the tendency to reduce the resources allocated for peacekeeping operations, whose primary purpose was to support Member States' efforts to achieve peace and stability and protect civilians, in particular women and children. If efforts to do more with less continued, peacekeeping operations would be left with few resources — including human resources — with which to implement their mandates, and those operations would be left in a state of uncertainty year after year. While the agreement reached by the Committee had left the fundamental activities of peacekeeping operations secure, attempts to impose substantial, across-the-board, budget cuts would undermine the credibility of the United Nations and increase the risk of a non-consensual outcome on future peacekeeping budgets. Committee members must work constructively at the expert level to avoid such an outcome. The Group urged individual Member States, and groups of Member States, to avoid seeking significant budget cuts in the name of efficiency, and called on all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time in order to avoid the accumulation of arrears and cash shortfalls, which threatened mandate fulfilment.

58. Efforts should be made to ensure that the Committee's sessions were concluded within the allocated time, on the basis of its programme of work. That had been the practice in the past, and should remain the practice, despite the complexity of the agenda. As before, the Group would work to prevent action — such as the consideration of many issues at expert level — which undermined the intergovernmental decision-making process.

59. **Mr. De Preter** (Observer for the European Union), said that the Committee, through a spirit of compromise and collective thinking in the Organization's interest, had reached consensus on almost all of the major items on its agenda, demonstrating delegations' political will to reach a negotiated solution to difficult challenges, acting together and meet their responsibilities. The European Union particularly wished to recognize the work of all personnel involved in the difficult and fundamental task of United Nations peacekeeping, and to pay tribute to all those who had lost their lives serving in peacekeeping missions. It valued the unique peacekeeping partnership between the Secretariat, troop- and police-contributing countries, host countries and funders. It also valued the consensus-based working methods of the Committee, which sought to ensure that all stakeholders were engaged in continuing that partnership. However, it was a matter of regret that it had not been possible to reach agreement on cross-cutting issues, and particularly guidance on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and other specific topics including the use of modern technologies in peacekeeping missions, and the application to them of environmental standards. The European Union urged the Secretary-General to continue exploring ways to address those matters.

60. The adoption of landmark resolutions on the review of the United Nations peace and security architecture and management reform constituted major steps towards making the Organization more effective and efficient. It would be able to deal with political issues, prevention, mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding in a more integrated and coordinated manner. Establishing two new Secretariat departments would result in a more results-oriented, transparent and accountable Organization, with less bureaucracy and better support for field operations. The European Union looked forward to consideration at the seventy-third session of new human-resources structures and policies, which were in need of change, in order to support effective fulfilment of mandates.

61. It was unfortunate that the Committee had been unable to conclude what was usually a session on peacekeeping matters within the allotted time. The European Union believed that the Committee's working methods should be kept under review, and that working late into the night and early morning should be the exception rather than the rule for its decision-making.

62. **Ms. Rees** (Australia), speaking also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand, said that the delegations of Australia, Canada and New Zealand particularly welcomed the adoption of draft resolutions regarding the Organization's peace and security architecture and regarding management reform, leading, in the case of the first resolution, to more coherent support across the continuum from conflict prevention to peacebuilding, and, in the case of the second resolution, to a more effective, accountable and transparent Organization. While both of the resolutions had departed in some respects from the original proposals of the Secretary-General, the three delegations trusted that he would have sufficient leverage to advance his vision of reform.

63. The Committee must turn its attention next to human resources, and to providing the Secretary-General with guidance in that regard. The three delegations were eager to see the global service delivery model implemented, recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 71/272, had emphasized the need for a clear benefit-realization plan and for consideration of the use of all existing infrastructure, including that away from Headquarters. In particular, the Member States wished to see a return on the substantial investment in the Umoja enterprise resource planning system. In that connection, the three delegations had noted the views expressed by the Advisory Committee (see A/72/7/Add.50) and by the Joint Inspection Unit in its report on administrative support services (see A/72/299), particularly with regard to the specialized agencies, funds and programmes being part of the approach. As indicated by many delegations, and the Advisory Committee, full service delivery in both of the working languages of the Organization was required, reflecting the preponderance of peacekeeping operations in French-speaking countries, and the General Assembly resolutions on multilingualism.

64. Australia, Canada and New Zealand supported the Secretary-General's vision of reform, recognized his authority to reorganize the Secretariat in the interests of greater effectiveness and efficiency, and took the view that the General Assembly should empower him to undertake that reform, judging him by its results.

65. **Ms. Norman-Chalet** (United States of America) said that, despite a challenging session, the Committee had succeeded in approving a responsible United Nations peacekeeping budget that provided adequate funding for peacekeeping missions, ensured financial discipline, streamlined operations where needed and promoted better ways of working. In addition, the Member States had given their political support to the Secretary-General's vision for reform and for a shift in the Organization's management paradigm by approving in large part his proposals for restructuring, which constituted the first such overhaul in over 40 years. The Committee had also gone beyond the normal scope of its work at the second part of the resumed session by considering a number of additional issues, including accountability, the global service delivery model, the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, the information and communications technology strategy, and revised budgets for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI).

66. The Committee's decisions on management reform and peace and security reform would help the Organization to tackle global challenges more effectively by reducing compartmentalization, simplifying and streamlining bureaucratic procedures and focusing on results. The Organization truly showed its value when it addressed the world's most pressing challenges and conflicts in an efficient, effective and accountable manner. By supporting the Secretary-General's proposal to restructure the peace and security pillar, the Committee had promoted his focus on conflict-prevention and peacebuilding, in order to move political solutions towards conflict resolution, thereby possibly reducing the need for peacekeeping missions. The Committee had also approved steps to improve coordination between the Organization's political and operational work by creating a single structure covering both.

67. **Mr. Fox-Drummond Gough** (Brazil) said that the Member States all had a duty to their taxpayers to make the United Nations more efficient, decrease waste and, where possible, reduce spending. However, the Fifth Committee had made significant cuts to peacekeeping budgets for the second year in a row, when its task should have been to ensure adequate resources for the implementation of United Nations mandates, examining the needs of each mission in order to arrive at a budget total. Its practice of negotiating a budget total and only then considering its effects on individual peacekeeping missions suggested that there had been an inversion of priorities. Moreover, as the Committee had missed the deadline of 30 June for the establishment of peacekeeping allocations, the process was not working. Keeping peace was not an abstract endeavour. As the Committee considered the means for action, it must not lose sight of the ultimate goals of the United Nations.

68. The Security Council had long recognized that deploying troops was not enough to bring peace. As Brazil had emphasized, programmatic activities carried out by peacekeeping operations, such as promotion of the rule of law, reduction of violence in the community and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration functions, were critical to the implementation of peacekeeping mandates. The diversity of programmatic activities financed through assessed contributions reflected the need for adaptability as peacekeeping mandates evolved. While his delegation regretted the inability of the Committee to reach agreement on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping, it welcomed the Committee's reluctance to share the sceptical approach of the Advisory Committee to the cross-cutting issue of programmatic activities included in peacekeeping operations.

69. Following the Fifth Committee's resounding expression of confidence in the Secretary-General and his reforms in the areas of management and peace and security, the delegation of Brazil believed that restructuring the Secretariat would help to replace entrenched structures and working methods with more dynamic practices. In particular, it expected that the new Enabling and Outreach Service would play a crucial role in ensuring that developing countries could participate on equal terms in United Nations procurement exercises. The delegation hoped that the Secretary-General would address without delay other areas in which the Organization lacked coherence and effectiveness, notably the longstanding issue of equitable geographical representation and the funding and backstopping of special political missions.

70. In connection with the reform of the Organization's peace and security architecture, the delegation of Brazil reiterated its understanding that, reflecting the wishes expressed by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/199, the establishment of the Department of Peace Operations should have no impact on the agreed basic principles of United Nations peacekeeping. The creation of that new department had generated a need for a clearer understanding of the nature of special political missions and peacekeeping operations. In that connection, Brazil welcomed the fact that the General Assembly had signalled its agreement with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, which coincided with the position held by the Group of 77 and China, that there should be a clear set of criteria to establish the peculiarities and commonalities of special political missions and peacekeeping missions.

71. Recalling that the Security Council, in its resolution 2367 (2017), had requested an independent assessment of matters including the staffing structure of UNAMI, the delegation of Brazil considered that that step had been an encroachment on the prerogatives of the Fifth Committee and a wasteful use of resources. The Secretariat had the capacity and obligation to keep mission staffing structures under review and ensure that they were fit for purpose. Paying external consultants to duplicate the work of the Secretariat was a poor use of the resources that Member States contributed to the Organization. The delegation was pleased that the draft resolution on special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, adopted by the General Assembly at the current meeting, had addressed that situation by recalling the need for use of in-house capacity and by reaffirming the General Assembly's role in budgetary and administrative matters, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

72. **Mr. Fu** Daopeng (China) said that the Committee's significant achievements over the entirety of the seventy-second session had represented a milestone, with approval of a new, annual, budget period; decisions on standards of accommodation for air travel; approval of the peacekeeping budget for 2018/19; and decisions on management reform and reform of the Organization's peace and security pillar. They provided the institutional basis and resource base for the Organization to perform its functions and play its central role in global governance.

73. China believed that the Organization's budget should not only guarantee the fulfilment of mandates, but also help to strengthen financial discipline and management and to improve efficiency in the use of funds, ensuring that the money from the taxpayers in the Member States was used and managed effectively. His delegation recalled that, during the recent discussion of the peacekeeping budget, it had made, and received wide support for, constructive suggestions to avoid the trap of cutting funds for the sake of cutting funds. Excessive reductions during the process of reviewing budgets risked simply forcing the Secretariat to request further resources during implementation of the budget, rendering the original cuts literally ineffective. China had always insisted that the review of budget levels must be based on mandates, be governed by financial regulations and rules, and aim for efficiency and cost saving.

74. China supported the Secretary-General's reform efforts; it held fast to its principles, but remained flexible, participating actively in discussion and consultation so as to facilitate final agreement among all the parties. Reform was a process rather than a one-time action, and could not be achieved overnight. China expected the Secretariat to increase consultation with the Member States, strengthening its accountability to them, in order to ensure that the reforms — of management, the peace and security pillar, or the global service delivery model — achieved the desired results, building a community around the Organization's central role in global multilateral governance.

75. As the Fifth Committee had a challenging mandate and a special role, China called for it to develop a consultative, constructive and sharing culture. By "consultative", it meant that the Committee should be run, and issues addressed, through consultations, upholding the principle of consensus. By "constructive", it meant that all parties should be involved constructively in establishing rules and regulations and establishing mechanisms for the operation of the Committee. By "sharing", it meant that the work of the Committee should be conducive to the

better functioning of the Organization, and the results should be shared by all Member States. His delegation would continue its active and constructive participation, maintaining a spirit of democratic consultation and mutually-beneficial cooperation, in order to make the work of the Committee more effective and also more responsive to new circumstances, mandates and challenges.

76. **Ms. Medina** (Norway) said that a challenging but historic session of the Committee had come to an end with the adoption of two proposals for comprehensive reform, representing the most significant shift seen in the United Nations system in several decades, and signalling the Member States' trust in the Secretary-General and his ability to lead the Organization as its chief administrative officer. The reforms, notably the changes to the peace and security architecture, would bring to the Secretariat integrated, holistic and clearly-defined structures and responsibilities, with amalgamated workflows and more seamless operation. Her delegation hoped that a better transition between peacekeeping and peacebuilding would result, placing prevention at the core of efforts to sustain peace.

77. As management reform was the enabler of all the other reforms, her delegation was pleased that the Committee had supported the implementation of a transparent system of delegation of authority. However, because human resources were the lifeblood of the Organization and were an essential part of the overall management structure, it was a matter of regret that the Committee had failed to reach agreement on the placement of human resources functions. Her delegation pledged to work towards achieving consensus on that issue as early as possible in the forthcoming session of the General Assembly, to enable the Secretary-General to implement fuller reform, starting on 1 January 2019. In expressing its support for the Secretary-General, Norway wished to encourage the change in culture within the Organization for the reforms to succeed.

78. **Mr. Velázquez Castillo** (Mexico) said that, thanks to consensus and constructive dialogue, the second part of the resumed seventy-second session had authorized the resources needed to enable the Organization's important peacekeeping mandates to be fulfilled in circumstances that were increasingly complex and exposed to risk. His delegation particularly welcomed the funding for the activities of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH). In addition to discussing peacekeeping matters, the Member States had risen to the challenge of discussing the reform proposals of the Secretary-General, making the adjustments they considered necessary, and ultimately approving the changes in structure and the allocation of resources to enable the Organization's management, and its peace and security pillar, to be reorganized. That would result in the establishment, in January 2019, of a new structure, with new and more effective arrangements for accountability and delegation of authority. The Secretary-General should now implement the reforms fully and rapidly. The Member States would be better placed to require that the Secretariat achieve results. They would be able to require changes when they detected problems or inefficiency, and to propose improvements. Having given the Secretary-General more tools and more flexibility for action, the Committee should increase its capacity for supervision and monitoring, in an environment focused on results and transparency.

79. With the beginning of the seventy-third session not far away, his delegation believed that reform should proceed without delay. It awaited with interest details on the Secretary-General's proposals for the reform of human resources management, whether from the logistical or structural standpoints, or from the standpoint of policy adjustments needed to improve implementation and evaluation of results. His delegation wished to recall that the General Assembly had requested a new report on the global service delivery model, a key contribution to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of action by the Secretariat and perhaps also the entire United Nations system.

80. **Ms. Seka-Fouah** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that the Committee's intensive effort over a long session had yielded results, among which was agreement on the financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI). Her delegation awaited with interest the conclusions relating to lessons learned from the 13 years of UNOCI activity. It also welcomed the General Assembly's granting of authorization to use the resources of the peacekeeping support account to cover any unforeseen shortfalls after the closure of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), and hoped that, despite large reductions in their budgets, the other peacekeeping missions would be able to implement their mandates as effectively as possible.

81. Turning to the Secretary-General's reform proposals, she welcomed the creation of four regional divisions for Africa and the call made by the Committee for a comparative assessment of placing human resources functions in one or more departments. Her delegation trusted that the Secretary-General's new proposal on locations for the global service delivery model would take full account of the fact that most of the clients served were in French-speaking Africa, and that they had the right to timely, high-quality services. However, it also wished to note that the conduct of the

informal consultations on the wording relating to the global service delivery model had been highly unusual. In a break with usual practice, no draft resolution containing proposals by the delegations had been submitted for the consideration of the Committee, in first and second readings, with interpretation services. The delegation of Côte d'Ivoire had shown great flexibility in that instance, but hoped that those unprecedented circumstances would not return in the future.

82. The time had come to learn lessons from such aberrations, and from the practices that, despite appeals from the delegations, had persisted from session to session. Those practices included deal-making among small groups of negotiators, and day, night and weekend work. Steps must be taken to remedy the situation, first and foremost through the adoption of a realistic programme of work. Substantial challenges lay ahead at the seventy-third session, and the ability of the Committee to play its central role in the Organization was at stake.

83. **Mr. Imada** (Japan) said that his delegation, which had shown positive and constructive engagement and the necessary flexibility during the course of the current session, was pleased that others had also acknowledged differences in position, remained respectful, and explored creative solutions enabling all parties to come together.

84. His delegation's approach to decision-making on the peacekeeping budget had been to seek evidence-based efficiency from all missions, recognizing that some — like the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) — stood out as highly efficient. As it had indicated in the informal consultations on the financing of peacekeeping missions, his delegation believed that that budget could be well below the initial level proposed, with a six-month arrangement for the financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). It took the view that the agreed overall peacekeeping budget, and the apportionment of resources for each mission, resulted from a compromise achieved at the expense of efficiency.

85. It also recalled that, in the informal consultations, it had attached importance to greater accountability on the part of the Secretariat for the use of assessed contributions to the peacekeeping budget, taking account of the fact that the Secretariat transferred some resources to fund the activities of non-Secretariat entities, including the funds and programmes, and non-governmental organizations. Neither the Security Council nor the General Assembly had given the Secretary-General a mandate to make such transfers. If the Secretary-General believed that transferring assessed peacekeeping contributions to such entities that fell outside his legal control was justified under the authority given to him pursuant to Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations, he should have ensured the establishment of a proper accountability mechanism to cover performance and misconduct on the part of those entities.

86. While the delegation of Japan was disappointed that the Committee had been unable to reach consensus on a resolution regarding cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping at the current session, it believed that one of the paragraphs adopted ad referendum by the Committee marked an important step:

> "*Requests* the Secretary-General to propose an accountability framework for performance and misconduct of entities that are not part of United Nations peacekeeping missions, including United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, when they perform activities funded through peacekeeping assessed budgets, excluding the provision of goods or services through contractual arrangements."

It trusted that the Secretary-General would act accordingly, and take suitable measures to address the lack of accountability regarding the transfer of assessed peacekeeping-budget resources.

87. His delegation wished to share its views on aspects of the reforms focusing on the Organization's management and peace and security architecture. First, with regard to the dual reporting-line structure proposed for both of those lines of reform, his delegation understood the merit of the approach in promoting integration between the proposed Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance and the proposed Department of Operational Support, and between the proposed Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the proposed Department of Peace Operations. However, further consideration of the matter might be needed. In the light of the Secretariat's response to questions from the Committee, which had indicated that the Under-Secretaries-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and for Peace Operations would evaluate jointly the Assistant Secretaries-General responsible for particular regions, his delegation wished to know how such joint evaluation of a single staff member would operate.

88. While his delegation supported the allocation of the procurement function to the Department of Operational Support, as proposed by the Secretary-

General, the agreement reached by the Committee on the draft resolution on shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations reflected the high level of risk inherent in United Nations procurement activities. He believed that the segregation of duties in procurement functions was critically important. In that connection, he wished to refer to the proposals of his delegation, which had been based on the responses provided by the Secretariat to questions from the Committee, and to the final sentence of paragraph 38 of the report of the Secretary-General on shifting the management paradigm at the United Nations (A/72/492/Add.2).

89. The delegation of Japan continued to support the Secretary-General's reform initiative, but believed that the addition of issues unrelated to peacekeeping to the agenda of the second part of the resumed session had been burdensome, and had added to the workload of the Committee and the Member States. It was a disappointment that discussion of the proposed reforms had continued into July 2018, sacrificing discussion on a resolution on cross-cutting issues related to peacekeeping. Such resolutions provided important guidance to the Secretariat on the use of assessed contributions for peacekeeping.

90. **Mr. Amayo** (Kenya) said that the Committee had taken almost two months to conclude its work at the second part of the resumed seventy-second session, partly as a result of the reform-related items added to the programme of work. He hoped that the Committee and the relevant bodies would in future work together to pursue innovative ways to expedite consultations and agree on budgets early enough to leave time for peacekeeping operations to prepare for the start of the following financial year. Although the Organization had faced challenges in peacekeeping operations in the past, much progress had been made, and many lives had been saved. His delegation believed that the resources approved for the peacekeeping missions would be used to implement effectively the mandates established by the Security Council. As a country which attached great importance to the maintenance of international peace and security, and had taken part in many peacekeeping operations led by the United Nations and by regional entities, Kenya considered the approval of increases in the rate of reimbursement to troop- and police-contributing countries and in death and disability compensation to be a step in the right direction. It valued the welfare of its personnel, and trusted that such reviews would take place more regularly in the future.

91. With regard to the reforms focused on the Organization's management and peace and security architecture, his delegation believed that measures including the reorganization of existing departments, delegation of authority and streamlining of functions would be valuable in improving the contribution of the Organization to the welfare of humanity. As it had stated previously, his delegation trusted that the reforms would uphold the intergovernmental nature of the Organization and the legislative role of the General Assembly, and that, as the Secretary-General had indicated, reforms would not lead to jobs being lost.

92. With regard to the consolidation of administrative services into shared entities, his delegation had noted the Committee's request for a new proposal to be brought before it, after consultation with the Member States, in time for the first part of the resumed seventy-third session. It regarded that consolidation as complementary to the other reforms, wished the Secretary-General success in his endeavour, and hoped that all efforts would be made to expedite the new proposal. He reiterated the support of Kenya for the reform process, and indicated that, should Nairobi be selected to host one of the global shared-services centres, the Government of Kenya would work with the Organization to ensure that the centre was established and brought into operation in a smooth manner.

93. **Ms. Andrianantoandro** (Madagascar) said that her delegation particularly welcomed the adoption of a draft resolution including the issue of the global service delivery model, and, in connection with Committee's request for a new proposal in time for the first resumed part of the seventy-third session, wished to recall that 65 per cent of United Nations personnel worked in French-speaking environments, a fact to which the Advisory Committee had drawn attention in its related report (A/72/7/Add.50). Her delegation also wished to emphasize that, as the aim of the proposed shared-service centres was to improve administrative support, enabling the Organization to better discharge its mandated tasks, three of its largest peacekeeping operations — the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), and MINUSMA — were in French-speaking countries. With the beneficiaries — the countries in which the peacekeeping troops were deployed — and the pursuit of excellence in mind, it was both vital and logical that the new centres should respond to needs on the ground by meeting the demand for services in French. Her delegation therefore called on the Secretary-General to give a high priority to language proficiency as a consideration in determining host-country locations, and to site at least one of the centres in a French-speaking country.

94. **Ms. Nalwanga** (Uganda) said that her delegation welcomed the adoption by consensus of the peacekeeping budget, and hoped that that practice would continue. However, it trusted that the budget reductions seen in previous sessions would remain the exception rather than the rule. It also welcomed the agreement on the budget allocations for the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe and the support account for peacekeeping operations.

95. While the discussion of the Secretary-General's reform proposals had resulted in an extension of the session and a heavier-than-usual programme of work, it had been important to take up the matter, as it was likely to have significant effects on the operation of the Organization. The restructuring of the Secretariat, the establishment of new departments and the creation of four regional divisions for Africa would not only improve its functioning, they would improve service delivery to field operations and increase accountability. Her delegation noted the intention to increase the role of regional hubs in procurement, and hoped that the delivery of services to peacekeeping missions would improve as a result. It had also noted the proposed reorganization of procurement, logistics and information and communications technology services, and looked forward to further information from the Secretariat regarding the reorganization of human resources management.

96. Recalling that the proposal for the global service delivery model had resulted in a request to the Secretary-General for a new proposal, she hoped that, as the Secretary-General continued to consider the matter, full account would be taken of the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee and of the views of the Member States. She also trusted that the new proposal would contain a cost-benefit realization plan, that it would consider the service centres that already existed and already supplied services to the Secretariat, and that the decisions in that regard would not be rushed. In order to avoid the situation that had occurred at the current session, with apparent changes of view on potential locations, there should be careful consideration and consultation. Her delegation recommended the establishment of a service centre for peacekeeping operations that was separate from any service centre for operations away from Headquarters and regional commissions, with the possibility of placing client service desks in a third location. Her delegation acknowledged the recommendation of the Advisory Committee regarding the provision of services in French, and wished to point out that such services were location-independent, and could be accommodated. In any location selected, it was important to recruit more staff with the ability to serve the needs of French-speaking clients.

97. **Mr. Oussihamou** (Morocco) said that his delegation welcomed the adoption of a peacekeeping budget adequate for the peacekeeping missions and of the proposed reforms of the management and peace and security architecture of the Organization. He wished to reiterate his delegation's support for the Secretary-General's proposals, which would help the Organization improve its operation and the fulfilment of its mandates.

98. **Ms. Beagle** (Under-Secretary-General for Management) said that she wished to congratulate the Committee on its efforts during the current session, which had seen it add to its already heavy agenda the expediting of the Secretary-General's reform agenda for the management and peace and security architecture of the Organization. The Committee had considered reports totalling some 3,000 pages, and the Secretariat had endeavoured to help deliberations by providing some 1,500 pages of additional information, as well as nearly 2,000 pages of written responses to questions. She wished to extend particular thanks to the Committee on behalf of the Headquarters staff who provided support for peacekeeping missions for providing the funding needed by the staff on the ground who fulfilled the essential mandates relating to the maintenance of international peace and security.

99. The proposed management reform represented a fundamental paradigm shift, with the creation of a new business model that would enable a transformation of the Organization and of its impact on the people it served. She thanked the Committee for its decisions and guidance in areas including human resources management and the global service delivery model. As many delegations had pointed out, management reform was not an event, but a process, and not an end in itself, but rather an endeavour which underpinned the reform of the Organization's peace and security architecture and development system. Together, those reforms would reposition the United Nations to deliver its mandates more effectively, particularly in connection with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Secretariat would now embark on the change-management efforts needed to implement the Committee's decisions, and on producing the reports it had requested for its next session. The Secretariat was committed to building trust with the Committee through formal and informal consultations, in order to carry the reforms forward, in the best interests of the Organization.

100. **The Chair** said that he wished to add his thanks to the members of the Fifth Committee, including the coordinators of informal consultations, to the Secretariat, to the Advisory Committee and to all other participants for their immense effort throughout the seventy-second session, and for the spirit of compromise that had led to a record number of reports being considered and consensus-based decisions being made.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.